

THE KENNEDY BRIDGE

HABS NO. 24-1

EAST OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA (one mile N)

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 24

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERBERT W. POLTZ, DISTRICT OFFICER
1034 Architects Building, Indianapolis

THE KENNEDY BRIDGE
EAST OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA

HABS NO. 24-1

This is one of two notable timber-covered bridges built by members of the Kennedy family near Rushville, Indiana. The one selected as a survey project is located one mile East of Rushville where State Road 44 crosses Flat Rock River.

This is a single span structure of the burr truss type, having a clear span of 165'9" with a 17 foot center roadway flanked either side by 4 1/2 foot walks. The bridge was erected in 1880 by Everett Emmett L. Kennedy, son of Archibald M. Kennedy, the first of this family of bridge builders.

The following is quoted from the report of Mr. R.B. Yule, of Indianapolis, an authority on early Indiana bridges, read at the centennial meeting of the Indiana Historical Society, December, 1930:

"Archibald M. Kennedy was born in Guilford County, North Carolina, Aug. 25, 1818- moved to Indiana in 1825 with the family. He settled in Rush County on a farm near Rushville. He began working at the carpentry trade in 1841, and at small bridge construction in 1853. Beginning in 1870 he and his sons, E. L. and Charles F., built covered bridges both in Ohio and Indiana. After the death of Archibald M. Kennedy the sons continued the business, and were later assisted by E.L.'s two sons, Karl and John. The Kennedys built about sixty covered bridges in all, the first being at Dunlapville, in Union County, and the last near Fountain City in 1918. Many of these bridges are still in use in southeastern Indiana and one has only to visit the structures near Rushville to see and appreciate the workmanship that went into them."

(Signed) Herbert H. Folger
DISTRICT OFFICER

April, 1934

Revised 1936 - H.C.F.